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LUCIEN MARCUS UNDERWOOD.

CAROLINE COVENTRY HAYNES.

The story of Professor Lucien M. Underwood's life has been well told elsewhere, the scope and power of his work has been estimated, and a complete list of his publications has been given. From Dr. Curtis' paper; A Biographical Sketch of Lucien Marcus Underwood,* I have taken the greater part of the facts here given.

Born October 26, 1853, in the town of New Woodstock, New York, Professor Underwood died at his home at Redding, Conn., November 16, 1907. His early life was spent on his father's farm; he went regularly to school until, at the age of eleven, he became one of the farm hands and could only attend the winter term at school and seminary. When seventeen he gained the scholarship and mathematical prizes. His passion for collecting was shown at an early age, and though he was obliged to walk three miles to school, he would carry material which he habitually provided for the use of the natural history class. Professor L. M. Coon (afterwards Judge Coon, of Oswego) suggested his going to college; determination was added to the suggestion through his reading Lyell's Principles of Geology and other works, and, in 1873, he entered Syracuse University. This followed a year or two of farming and lumbering by which he obtained the necessary funds. In 1875 he began forming an herbarium, ferns being his first choice. Geology and entomology were also favorite studies; his eloquence placed him among the orators of his college; he was also an able writer. He visited New York and saw the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia in 1876.

After his graduation in 1877 he began teaching, showing marked ability in surmounting difficulties. Meanwhile he was working for the Master's degree which he gained in 1878 at Syracuse University. He taught natural science at Cazenovia Seminary for two years, during which time he completed his graduate work in geology. After a year's teaching at Hedding College, Illinois, he became professor of geology and botany at the Illinois Wesleyan University at Bloomington, where he remained during three busy years.

From 1882-1896 he was actively interested in the Hepaticae, his desire being to bring this greatly neglected group into notice and he unquestionably succeeded in doing so. The year 1884 saw the publication of his "Descriptive Catalogue of the North American Hepaticae, north of Mexico." With O. F. Cook, he issued *Hepaticae Americanae*, a series, unfinished, of exsiccatae, numbering two hundred. He prepared the section on the Hepaticae in Gray's Manual of Botany, sixth edition, published in 1890. Among a number of valuable papers may be mentioned "The Evolution of the

*Bull. Torrey Club 35: 1-12, 1908.



Yours sincerely
Lucien M. Underwood

Hepaticae," and the first part of a projected work on the North American Hepaticae entitled, "Index Hepaticae, Part I—Bibliography." His collecting trips brought him in contact with many scientists; several organizations were promoted, largely through his efforts.

For seven years he was associated with Syracuse University, teaching a variety of subjects. He was made professor in 1886. In 1890 he secured a year's leave of absence and accepted the Morgan fellowship at Harvard University, where he studied, among other things, the Sullivant and Taylor collection of hepatics. A professorship of botany was offered him at De Pauw University, Greencastle, Indiana. During the four years of his stay he worked at his favorite subject, cryptogamic botany. He was a member of the original committee on nomenclature at the Rochester meeting and was a delegate to the International Botanical Congress at Genoa. While in Europe he met many fellow scientists and examined noted herbaria, for the further study of which he afterwards returned many times. In 1893 he wrote to Professor Britton proposing the beginning of a comprehensive work on North American Flora; the first title suggested was "Systematic Botany of North America." After a year at the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, teaching biology, he became professor of botany at Columbia University in July, 1896. From this date his original absorption in the ferns returned; he made many collecting trips to the tropics and wrote constantly. His masterly comprehension of this great group is shown in the papers published. Mention should be made also of his publications on entomology and the fungi, all undertaken with the intention of presenting these subjects to the students. His breadth of view, intense enthusiasm and single-heartedness made him a remarkable teacher and organizer, and many honors were shown him.

An influence, such as his, must be a widely spreading one, as the subjects which he did so much to bring out of obscurity become better known. Students who have come within his genial influence, who have been helped and inspired by his quick and illuminating facing of problems, indeed mourn his loss. The writer wishes to bear testimony with so many others to his generosity. She will never forget the delight of receiving a box containing forty specimens, labeled "Hepaticae Americanae," all that were left of his published series: this was at a time when she knew by sight barely a dozen species. He followed this by gifts of reprints of some of his hepatic literature. Two years ago he turned over for her study the material, mostly unidentified, that had accumulated in his possession since he worked upon this group. Specimens of these were to be prepared for the Herbarium of the New York Botanical Garden, and he suggested her issuing a sort of continuation of his exsiccatae with the material that existed in sufficient quantity; accordingly, the first issue of this, under the title "American Hepaticae," was distributed last summer. Among this heterogeneous material are some collections to be reported upon and duplicates returned: many possibilities of study are offered, new species and new facts of distribution will be brought out, and it is a really inspiring work that will require years to accomplish, with never failing gratitude to the one who suggested it.

It is good to revive the memory of Torrey Field Days when Professor Underwood went along; what spirited seeing and seeking! Will any one of those who were of the party of May 6, 1906, at Redding, with him as our host, ever forget that delightful day? The happy hunting grounds that he knew so well—where *Pellia epiphylla* was found fruiting riotously, and *Jubula Pennsylvanica* was growing in great pendulous masses on the wet, steep sides of the glen. Then the rest under the trees, partaking of the bountiful luncheon provided by Mrs. Underwood, the general feeling of friendliness, the bouyant life radiating from our host! It was indeed a red-letter day!

A life of such constancy to an ideal whose accomplishment means the development of so many fine faculties in himself, and the advancement of science in the world will make us forever treasure his memory.

New York City.

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